# Agriculture Profile

## Quesnel District

Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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# AGRICULTURE PROFILE

## QUESNEL DISTRICT

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This series of agricultural profiles was produced by the Policy Development and Economics Division, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

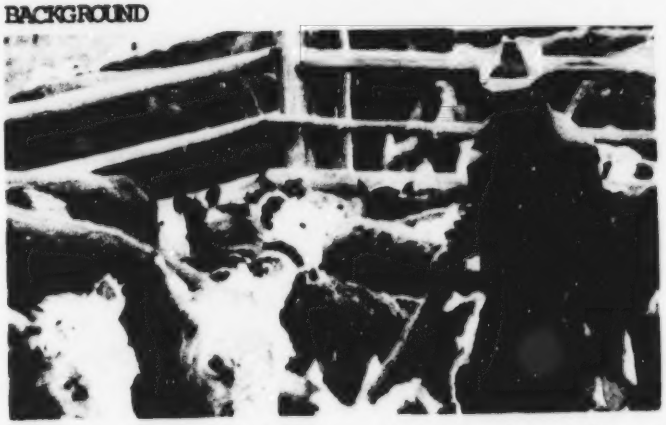
Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

# BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

# AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - QUESNEL DISTRICT

## PREFACE

### BACKGROUND



The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

### CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Quesnel District are to the area covered by census division 41-Cariboo (northern portion).

### STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

# CONTENTS


| | Page |
|---|---|
| Acknowledgement | iii |
| Preface | v |
| Background | |
| Structure | |
| Scope | |
| Methodology | |
| Contents | vii |
| List of Tables | viii |
| List of Maps | ix |
| Overview: Quesnel District | 1 |
| Quesnel: Agricultural Resource Base | 13 |
| Farm Taxfiler's Income | |
| Agricultural Employment | |
| Agricultural Activity | |
| Agricultural Land Development Act Work | |
| Farm Capital | |
| Age of Operators | |
| Quesnel: Agricultural Production | 24 |
| Livestock and Related | |
| Vegetables and Specialty Crops | |
| Small Fruit and Tree Fruit | |
| Field Crops | |
| Appendix | 33 |
| Terms Used in Census of Agriculture | |
| Terms Used in Land Capability Ratings | |

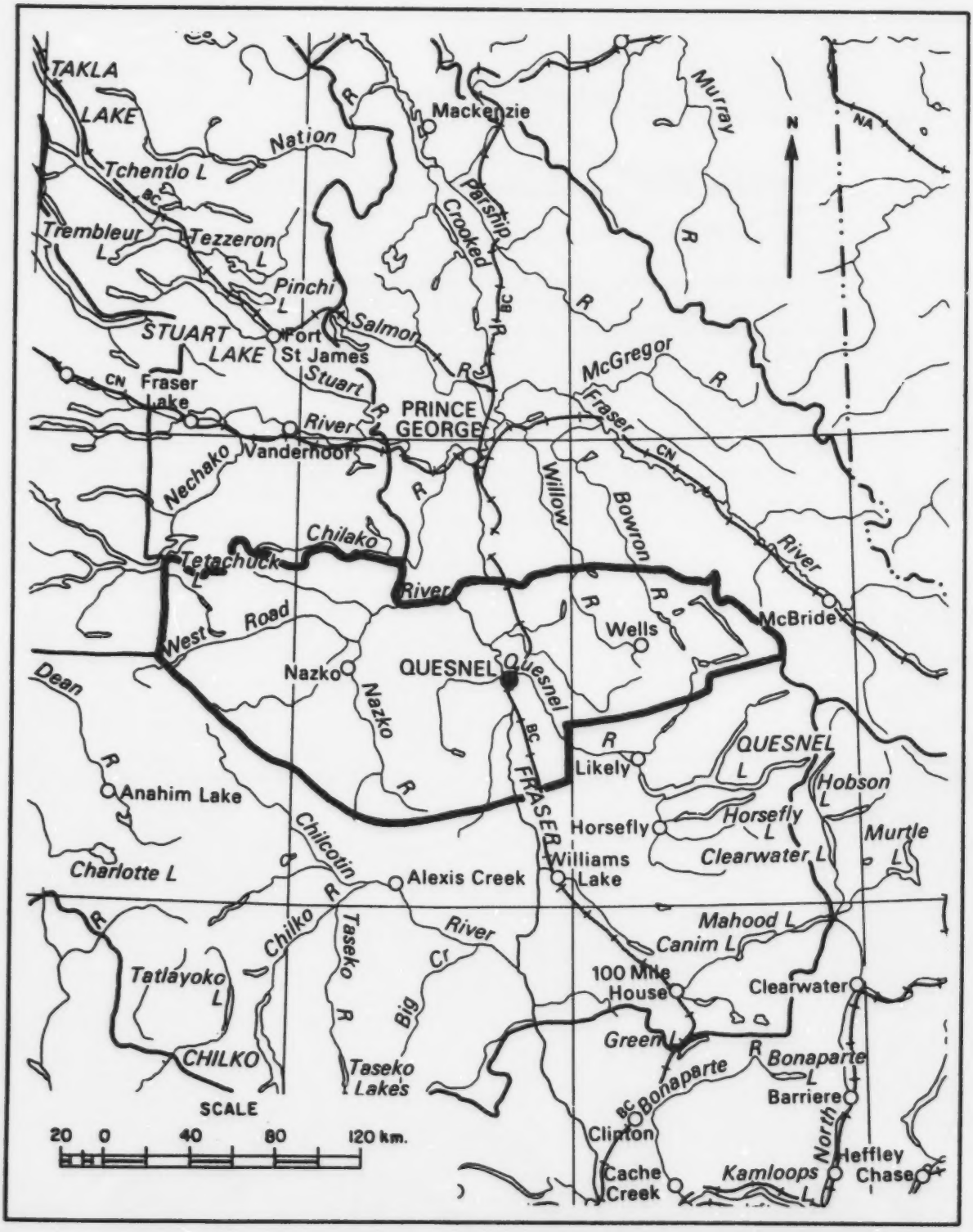
## LIST OF TABLES


| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Climatic Data - Quesnel/Niagrara Falls/Saskatoon Compared | 3 |
| 2. | Agricultural Land Reserve Areas: Summary Table | 5 |
| 3. | Agriculture Land Capability | 7 |
| 4. | Agriculture and Grazing Lease Data | 8 |
| 5. | Use of Land by Farm Sales Class | 9 |
| 6. | Number of Farms by Farm Sales Class | 10 |
| 7. | Farms Classified by Product Type and Sales. | 11 |
| 8. | Farms Classified by Size and Sales. | 12 |
| 9. | Farms Classified by Capital Value and Sales | 14 |
| 10. | Total Farm Capital by Farm Sales. | 15 |
| 11. | Sales of Farms. | 16 |
| 12. | Average Age of Farmers. | 17 |
| 13. | Farm Taxfilers' Incomes | 18 |
| 14. | Off-Farm Work by Farm Operators - By Type of Work | 19 |
| 15. | Off-Farm Work by Farm Operators - By Number of Days | 20 |
| 16. | Hired Agricultural Labour by Farm Sales | 21 |
| 17. | A.L.D.A. Work Completed | 22 |
| 18. | Spraying, Dusting and Irrigation. | 23 |
| 19. | Use of Fertilizer | 23 |
| 20. | Estimate of Farm Cash Receipts. | 25 |
| 21. | Area in Field Crops by Farm Sales | 26 |
| 22. | Area in Vegetables by Farm Sales. | 27 |
| 23. | Area in Small Fruit by Farm Sales | 28 |
| 24. | Area in Tree Fruit by Farm Sales. | 29 |
| 25. | Area in Specialty Crops by Farm Sales | 30 |
| 26. | Livestock Numbers by Farm Sales | 31 |
| 27. | Poultry Numbers by Farm Sales | 32 |

## LIST OF MAPS


| | |
|---|---|
| B.C. Agricultural Reporting Regions | iv |
| Quesnel Agricultural District | x |
| Central Region Agricultural Land Reserve Area | 4 |
| Central Region Land Capability Ratings | 6 |

# QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



## OVERVIEW: QUESNEL DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Quesnel Agricultural District occupies 2.1 million hectares in the Central Agricultural Reporting Region. The district occupies the physiographic region known as the Interior Plateau. The Plateau is level to rolling, ranging between 1200 to 1800 meters above sea level.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 14,813, an increase of 14.8 percent over 1976 levels. The urban/rural distribution has shifted slightly over the last few years, the urban segment now represents 41.2 percent of the total population up from 38.7 percent in 1976. Total experienced labour force totals 10,870, with the majority employed in the manufacturing, personal services, trade and utility sectors.

The major agricultural activity in the district consists of beef production. In 1981, cattle production was the primary activity of 55 percent of farms. Field crops, almost exclusively fodder crops accounted for 10 percent of holdings while poultry production was also reported by 10 percent of operations. Cattle production was the primary activity of 71 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $11.6 million in 1981, 1.3 percent of the provincial total. Cattle and calves and dairy accounted for 43 and 35 percent of receipts respectively.

The Quesnel District accounts for 64,474 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 3 percent of the provincial total. The total number of farms enumerated by the 1981 Census of Agriculture was 379. Farms are larger than the provincial average in Quesnel where average farm size is 220 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 48 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

A major trend in the district is the development of backgrounding operations. An increasing number of cattle are being fed in the district using locally produced high-quality feed. A limited number of cattle are finished locally, but with the development of irrigation to increase forage crop yields there is an opportunity for more feedlot operations. Horticulture production is a sector with potential for development, with the provision of irrigation production potential appears favourable. Prince George presents a large and growing market in the region for agricultural produce.

The amount of agricultural land in the district is becoming noticeably limited, and coming under increasing pressures from non-agricultural uses. As a consequence land prices have risen in recent years and initial capital requirements for land hinder new entry into agriculture.

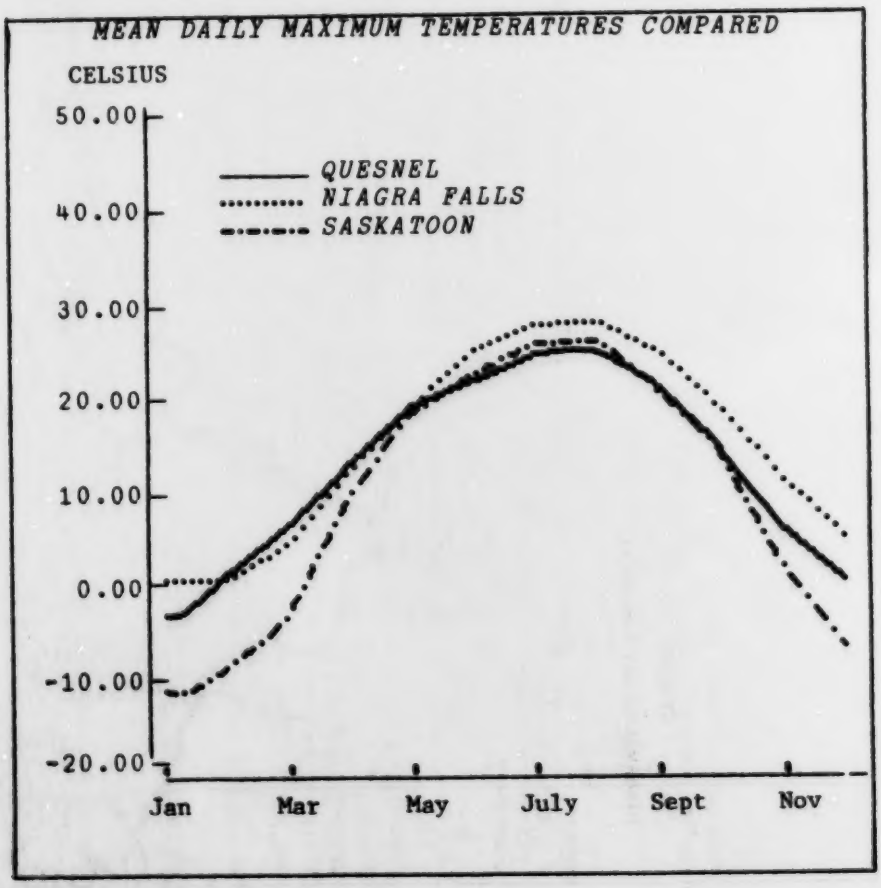
TABLE 1

CLIMATIC DATA

QUESNEL/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

| | QUESNEL | NIAGARA FALLS | SASKATOON |
|---|---|---|---|
| Growing Degree Days | 1,433.3 | 2,472.7 | 1,619.9 |
| Frost Free Period | 104 | 172 | 117 |
| Total Precipitation | 527.7 | 942.3 | 348.8 |

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada



# CENTRAL ALR AREAS

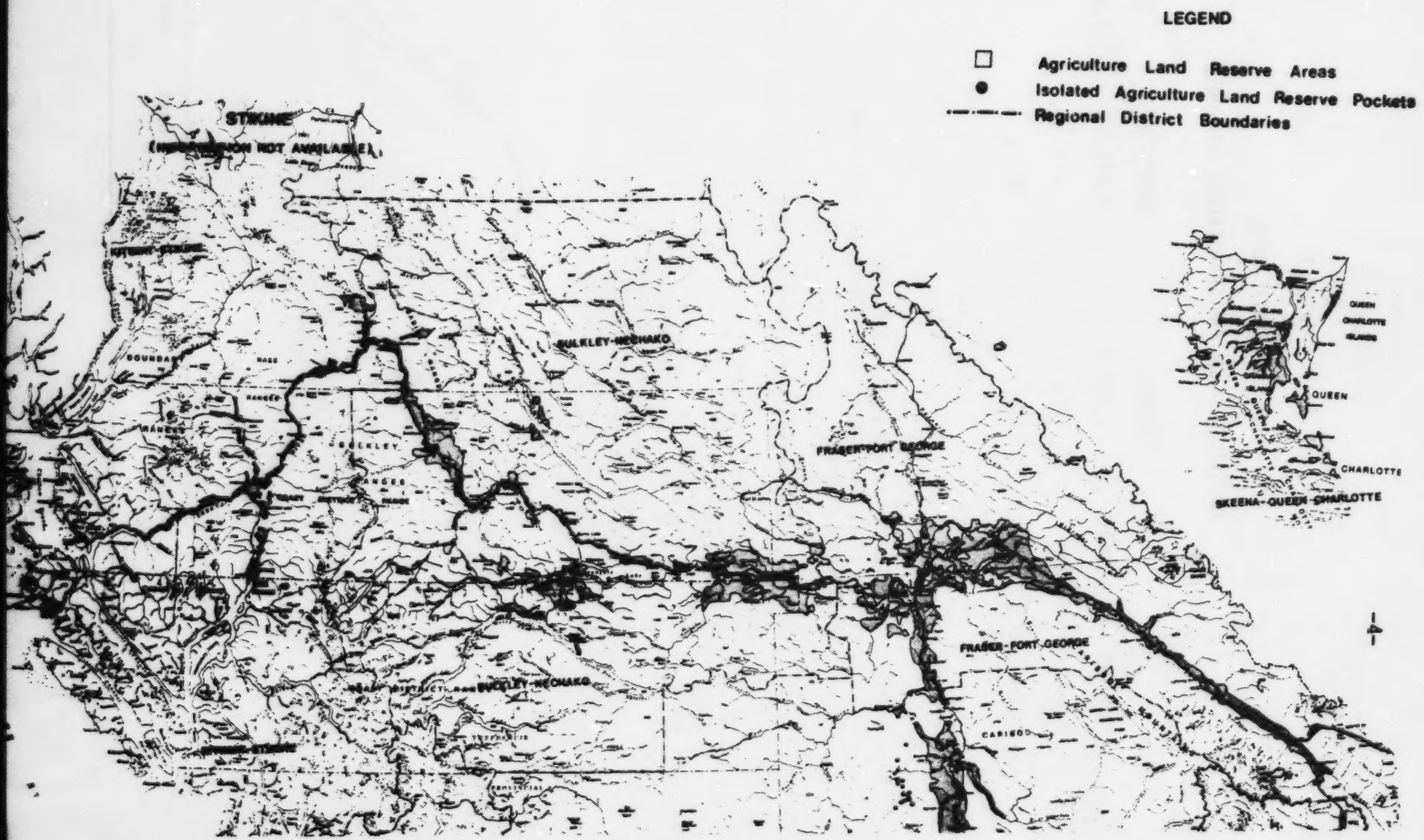


TABLE 2
FRASER FORT GEORGE REGIONAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES
SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1-4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Water | Total | %Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Forages and Grains | 0 | 850 | 5,700 | 11,100 | 17,650 | 4,490 | 310 | 1,210 | 0 | 23,660 | 7 |
| Horticulture | 0 | 170 | 210 | 90 | 470 | 10 | 40 | 10 | 0 | 530 | 0 |
| Grassland and Pasture | 0 | 270 | 1,700 | 6,150 | 8,120 | 3,490 | 140 | 700 | 0 | 12,450 | 3 |
| Forest | 0 | 2,490 | 27,760 | 142,420 | 172,670 | 92,070 | 4,350 | 37,570 | 0 | 306,660 | 84 |
| Non-Productive Lands | 0 | 90 | 540 | 2,100 | 2,730 | 2,100 | 130 | 390 | 15,180 | 20,530 | 6 |
| Total | 0 | 3,870 | 35,910 | 161,860 | 201,640 | 102,160 | 4,970 | 39,880 | 15,180 | 363,830 | |
| % Total | 0 | 1 | 10 | 45 | 56 | 28 | 1 | 11 | 4 | | |

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Tallsman Project Inc., 1980.

# CENTRAL LAND CAPABILITY

class 1,2,3

class 4,5

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CHARLOTTE

ISLANDS

STRAIT

TABLE 3

CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

| Class | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Water Surface | Other* | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hectares: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unimproved | - | 9,545 | 91,831 | 461,509 | 1,240,611 | 428,253 | 4,110,796 | 506,906 | 30,438,133 | 37,287,585 |
| Improved** | 40 | 9,505 | 100,374 | 481,299 | 1,220,768 | 433,605 | 4,096,954 | 506,906 | 30,438,133 | 37,287,585 |
| Percent: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unimproved | - | 0.03 | 0.25 | 1.2 | 3.3 | 1.2 | 11.02 | 1.36 | 81.63 | 100.00 |
| Improved** | - | 0.03 | 0.27 | 1.3 | 3.3 | 1.2 | 10.99 | 1.36 | 81.63 | 100.00 |

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1976.

TABLE 4
QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

| Year | No. of Leases | Area |
|---|---|---|
| 1983 | 2 | 281.7 |
| 1982 | 0 | - |
| 1981 | 4 | 245.6 |
| 1980 | 14 | 1,078.0 |
| 1980-1983 | 20 | 1,605.2 |
| TOTAL | 81 | 6,903.6 |

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1983 | 6 | 493.5 |
| 1982 | 13 | 919.7 |
| 1981 | 14 | 789.1 |
| 1980 | 13 | 917.7 |
| 1980-1983 | 46 | 3,119.9 |
| TOTAL | 89 | 6,858.6 |

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1983 | 0 | - |
| 1982 | 2 | 19.6 |
| 1981 | 0 | - |
| 1980 | 0 | - |
| 1980-1983 | 2 | 19.6 |
| TOTAL | 5 | 52.8 |

Total lease area in Quesnel: 1980-1983: 4,744.75
Total lease area in Quesnel: 13,814.93

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS QUESNEL, 1981-IN HECTARES

| | $250-1599 | $1600-2499 | $2500-4999 | $5000-9999 | $10000-49999 | $50000 OR MORE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Farms | 82 | 33 | 63 | 61 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| Total Area of Farms | 4,275 | 2,705 | 6,539 | 7,529 | 24,056 | 19,370 | 64,474 |
| Total Improved Land Area | 1,833 | 965 | 2,131 | 3,325 | 11,923 | 10,846 | 31,023 |
| Total Area Under Crop | 993 | 599 | 1,027 | 1,914 | 6,692 | 4,145 | 15,370 |
| Number of Farms Reporting | 58 | 27 | 48 | 56 | 105 | 34 | 328 |
| Area of Improved Pasture | 543 | 313 | 885 | 1,106 | 4,330 | 6,325 | 13,502 |
| Number of Farms Reporting | 48 | 27 | 40 | 40 | 90 | 27 | 272 |
| Area in Summer Fallow | 130 | 2.4 | 35 | 64 | 254 | 159 | 645 |
| Number of Farms Reporting | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 4 | 35 |
| Other Improved Land Area | 167 | 50 | 185 | 241 | 648 | 217 | 1,506 |
| Number of Farms Reporting | 57 | 22 | 47 | 44 | 80 | 23 | 273 |
| Total Unimproved Land Area | 2,442 | 1,741 | 4,409 | 4,204 | 12,134 | 8,523 | 33,452 |
| Woodland Area | 1,009 | 585 | 1,324 | 1,287 | 3,396 | 2,195 | 9,795 |
| Number of Farms Reporting | 29 | 12 | 23 | 23 | 50 | 11 | 148 |
| Other Unimproved Land Area | 1,433 | 1,155 | 3,085 | 2,917 | 8,738 | 6,329 | 23,657 |
| Number of Farms Reporting | 57 | 24 | 44 | 48 | 90 | 29 | 292 |

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

| SALES | $-2499 | $2500-4999 | $5000-9999 | $10,000+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1981 | 81 | 44 | 48 | 119 |

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

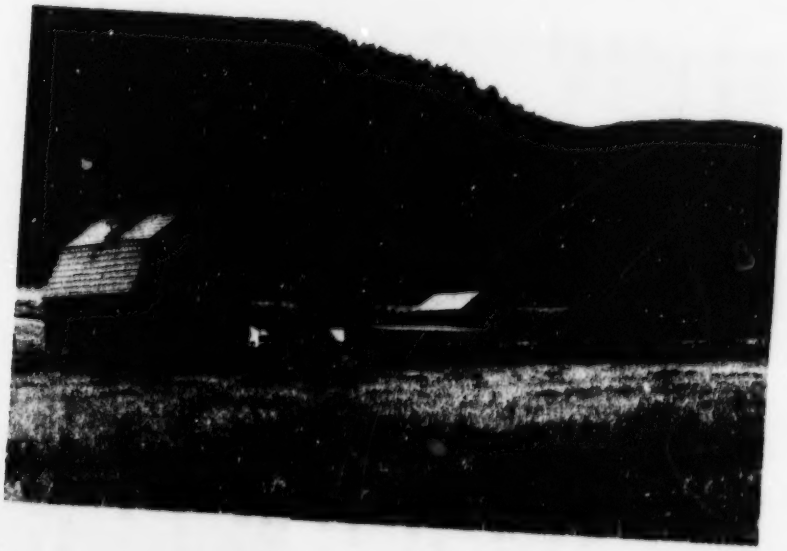


TABLE 7

QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

| | $250-1599 | $1600-2499 | $2500-4999 | $5000-9999 | $10000-49999 | $50000 OR MORE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dairy | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 24 |
| Cattle | 24 | 12 | 27 | 37 | 83 | 24 | 207 |
| Hogs | 3 | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | 7 |
| Poultry | 19 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | - | 36 |
| Wheat | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Small Grains | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | 4 |
| Other Field Crops | 13 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 34 |
| Fruits and Vegetables | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 3 |
| Miscellaneous Specialty | 8 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 33 |
| Livestock Combination | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | - | 20 |
| Other Combinations | 5 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | 10 |
| TOTAL | 82 | 33 | 63 | 61 | 106 | 34 | 379 |

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

| | $250-1599 | $1600-2499 | $2500-4999 | $5000-9999 | $10000-49999 | $50000 OR MORE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-2 Acres | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 5 |
| 3-9 Acres | 4 | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | 8 |
| 10-69 Acres | 22 | 8 | 12 | 4 | - | 1 | 47 |
| 70-129 Acres | 15 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 36 |
| 130-179 Acres | 24 | 11 | 20 | 13 | 18 | - | 86 |
| 180-239 Acres | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | - | 17 |
| 240-399 Acres | 9 | 2 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 4 | 58 |
| 400-559 Acres | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 19 | 2 | 34 |
| 560-759 Acres | - | - | 4 | 4 | 17 | 2 | 27 |
| 760-1119 Acres | - | 2 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 6 | 27 |
| 1120-1599 Acres | - | - | 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 20 |
| 1600 Acres and Over | - | - | - | - | 4 | 10 | 14 |
| TOTAL | 82 | 33 | 63 | 61 | 106 | 34 | 379 |

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

## QUESNEL: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

### Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has a relatively high proportion of low income operations. In 1981, 63 percent of farms had sales less than $10,000 compared to 60 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported in the Omineca Region was $20,100 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. Almost all taxfilers reported some off farm income, with 70 percent reporting wages and salaries.

### Agricultural Employment

Over 92 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 79 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 6 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 46 percent of agricultural employment.

### Agricultural Land Development Act

The 1981 census reported 143 more holdings than in 1976. Land clearing has accounted for over 65 percent of A.L.D.A. expenditures since 1971, with over 4,400 hectares cleared during the period 1971-81. Approximately 12 percent of funds are allocated to land breaking, which has totalled 3,100 hectares since 1971. Operators report using 4,342 tonnes of fertilizer on 25,798 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

### Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital has increased from $48 million in 1976 to $124 million in 1981. The per farm average rose from $159,000 to $327,000 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings, livestock and machinery has remained relatively constant since 1976. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $1,923, about one-half of the provincial average.

### Age of Operators

The age distribution of farmers remained relatively constant over the period 1976-81 with the largest increase in the 35-44 age group, the total number of farmers increased by 10 percent, the district now represents 1.2 percent of the provincial total.

TABLE 9

QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

| Capital Value | Sales $250-2499 | $2500-9999 | $10000-49999 | $50000 OR MORE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $10,000-24,999 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| $25,000-49,999 | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | 6 |
| $50,000-99,999 | 42 | 23 | 1 | - | 66 |
| $100,000-199,999 | 50 | 42 | 10 | 1 | 103 |
| $200,000-499,999 | 17 | 51 | 68 | 7 | 143 |
| $500,000 AND OVER | 1 | 7 | 26 | 26 | 60 |
| TOTAL | 115 | 124 | 106 | 34 | 379 |

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: QUESNEL DISTRICT

| | $250-2499 | $2500-9999 | $10000-49999 | $50000+ | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NUMBER OF FARMS | 115 | 124 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE | 15,839,424 | 27,125,193 | 46,577,365 | 34,418,861 | 123,960,843 |
| VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS | 13,184,287 | 21,590,051 | 32,724,736 | 24,573,637 | 92,072,711 |
| VALUE OF MACHINERY | 2,030,200 | 3,357,540 | 6,484,637 | 3,726,276 | 15,598,653 |
| VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY | 624,937 | 2,177,602 | 7,367,992 | 6,118,948 | 16,289,479 |
| AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE | 137,734 | 218,752 | 439,409 | 1,012,319 | 327,074 |
| RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS | 100 | 35 | 15 | 6 | |

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE II

1983 SALES OF FARMS-CENTRAL REGION

| Area Name | No. Pcls. | Hectares | Sale Price | Value of Improvements | Residual Value | Actual Value | Assessment Sales Ratio | Mkt Value $/Hectare |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northwest | 17 | 1,496 | $1,697,000 | $243,500 | $1,453,500 | $318,870 | 0.219 | 971 |
| Prince George | 36 | 2,815 | 2,985,201 | 458,400 | 2,526,801 | 904,311 | 0.358 | 897 |

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: QUESNEL DISTRICT

| | 1976 | 1981 | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 25 | 3 | 4 | +1 |
| 25 - 34 | 40 | 40 | - |
| 35 - 44 | 61 | 70 | +9 |
| 45 - 54 | 68 | 71 | +3 |
| 55 - 59 | 23 | 27 | +4 |
| 60- 64 | 17 | 19 | +2 |
| 65 - 69 | 7 | 10 | +3 |
| 70 & Over | 8 | 8 | - |
| TOTAL | 227 | 249 | +22 |
| TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C. | 1.2 | 1.2 | |

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
CENTRAL REGION
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

| | # of Farm Taxfilers | Average Gross Farm Income $'000s | Total Gross Farm Income $'000s | # Reporting Farm Net Income | Average Net Farm Income $'000s | Total Net Farm Income $'000s | # Reporting Wages & Salaries | Average Wage & Salary $'000s | # Reporting Off Farm Income | Average Off Farm Income $'000s | Total Off Farm Income $'000s | Average Income All Sources $'000s | Total Income All Sources $'000s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fraser-Ft. George | 310 | 17.8 | 5,524.5 | 299 | (6.28) | (1,945.9) | 210 | 10.8 | 299 | 15.1 | 4,689.4 | 8.9 | 2,743.5 |
| Prince George | 770 | 14.7 | 11,295.1 | 756 | (3.27) | (2,521.0) | 589 | 18.3 | 753 | 25.0 | 19,209.1 | 21.7 | 16,688.2 |
| Bulkley-Nechako | 1,170 | 26.6 | 31,103.3 | 1,143 | (2.10) | (2,453.5) | 762 | 12.3 | 1,128 | 17.2 | 20.166.1 | 15.1 | 17,712.6 |
| Stikine | 10 | 15.2 | 151.6 | 10 | 404 | 4040 | 8 | 11.5 | 10 | 22.2 | 221.6 | 22.6 | 225.6 |
| Kitimat-Stikine | 190 | 7.9 | 1,503.3 | 185 | (3.85) | (730.7) | 144 | 15.5 | 190 | 22.4 | 4,247.8 | 18.5 | 8,517.1 |
| Skeena | 10 | 6.3 | 63.2 | 8 | (1.59) | (15.88) | 7 | 14.3 | 9 | 17.6 | 175.8 | 16.0 | 159.9 |
| Prince Rupert | 15 | 3.1 | 45.7 | 15 | (1.04) | (15.54) | 13 | 22.9 | 15 | 28.0 | 420.6 | 27.0 | 405.1 |
| Total/ Omineca | 2,475 | 20.1 | 49,686.8 | 2,416 | 3.10 | (7,678.5) | 1,733 | | 2,404 | 19.9 | 49,130.4 | 16.8 | 41,452.0 |

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: QUESNEL

| | $250-1599 | $1600-2499 | $2500-4999 | $5000-9999 | $10000-49999 | $50000 OR MORE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NUMBER OF FARMS | 82 | 33 | 63 | 61 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK | 11,628 | 4,902 | 7,923 | 7,291 | 7,579 | 788 | 40,111 |
| FARMS REPORTING | 56 | 26 | 44 | 38 | 49 | 5 | 218 |
| AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK | 536 | 30 | 765 | 129 | 1,146 | 423 | 3,029 |
| FARMS REPORTING | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 26 |
| NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK | 11,092 | 4,872 | 7,158 | 7,162 | 6,433 | 365 | 37,082 |
| FARMS REPORTING | 53 | 26 | 41 | 37 | 41 | 1 | 199 |

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15
QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

| | $250-1,599 | $1,600-2,499 | $2,500-4,999 | $5,000-9,999 | $10,000-49,000 | $50,000+ | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-6 Days | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 7-12 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| 13-24 | 1 | 4 | - | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 25-48 | - | - | 4 | - | 5 | - | 9 |
| 49-72 | 2 | - | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| 73-96 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | 8 |
| 97-126 | 5 | - | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 15 |
| 127-156 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 4 | - | 14 |
| 157-228 | 14 | 6 | 17 | 14 | 16 | - | 67 |
| 229-365 | 28 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 2 | 79 |
| Total | 56 | 26 | 44 | 38 | 49 | 5 | 218 |

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: QUESNEL

| | $250-1599 | $1600-2499 | $2500-4999 | $5000-9999 | $10000-49999 | $50000 OR MORE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NUMBER OF FARMS | 82 | 33 | 63 | 61 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR | 110 | 68 | 137 | 223 | 726 | 1,093 | 2,357 |
| FARMS REPORTING | 9 | 6 | 17 | 19 | 36 | 22 | 109 |
| WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR | 64 | - | 56 | 103 | 367 | 646 | 1,236 |
| FARMS REPORTING | 3 | - | 4 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 32 |
| WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR | 46 | 68 | 81 | 120 | 359 | 447 | 1,121 |
| FARMS REPORTING | 6 | 6 | 13 | 16 | 30 | 15 | 86 |

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, APRIL 1971 - MARCH 1982: QUESNEL DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

| | CLEARED | | | BROKEN | | | IRRIGATION | DRAINAGE | OTHER | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fiscal Year | Hectares | Cost/ Hectare $ | Cost $'000 | Hecatares | Cost/ Hectare $ | Cost $'000 | Cost $'000 | Cost $'000 | Cost $'000 | $'000 |
| 1971/72 | 320 | 129 | 41 | 172 | 28 | 5 | - | - | 7 | 53 |
| 1972/73 | 219 | 160 | 35 | 189 | 30 | 6 | 10 | - | 10 | 52 |
| 1973/74 | 508 | 179 | 91 | 427 | 36 | 14 | 13 | - | 15 | 133 |
| 1974/75 | 954 | 192 | 184 | 609 | 36 | 22 | 41 | - | 5 | 252 |
| 1975/76 | 437 | 210 | 92 | 394 | 46 | 18 | 12 | - | - | 122 |
| 1976/77 | 312 | 225 | 70 | 176 | 61 | 11 | - | - | - | 81 |
| 1977/78 | 489 | 229 | 112 | 373 | 75 | 28 | 12 | - | - | 153 |
| 1978/79 | 276 | 284 | 78 | 229 | 74 | 17 | 15 | - | 6 | 117 |
| 1979/80 | 398 | 303 | 121 | 167 | 133 | 22 | 6 | - | 9 | 158 |
| 1980/81 | 253 | 312 | 19 | 122 | 48 | 12 | 9 | - | 7 | 106 |
| 1981/82 | 248 | 386 | 115 | 244 | 90 | 22 | 101 | - | 1 | 239 |

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: QUESNEL

| | |
|---|---|
| Spraying and Dusting (any) | 27 |
| Weed Control (Hec.) | 437 |
| Farms Reporting | 25 |
| For Insect Control (Hec.) | 45 |
| Farms Reporting | 7 |
| Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.) | 15,770 |
| Farms Reporting | 264 |
| Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.) | 8,490 |
| Farms Reporting | 201 |

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: QUESNEL

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Area (hectares) | 25,798 |
| Tonnes | 4,342 |
| No. Reports of Any Use | 500 |
| Total Cropland (Hec.) | 6,723 |
| Tonnes | 1,162 |
| Farms Reporting | 160 |
| Total Tame Hay (Hec.) | 16,606 |
| Tonnes | 2,822 |
| Farms Reporting | 382 |
| Total Improved Pasture (Hec.) | 2,470 |
| Tonnes | 358 |
| Farms Reporting | 116 |

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

## QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

### Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $9.2 million or 80 percent of total farm cash receipts. Cattle operations accounted for $4.9 million of this total or 4 percent of provincial beef sales. Total cattle herd size remained relatively stable with the population experiencing virtually no fluctuation since 1976. The 1981 census indicates that Quesnel accounts for 4.8 percent of the provincial beef cow population although it only has 1.9 percent of the agricultural holdings. The dairy industry has experienced rapid growth with the dairy herd increasing five fold to 1,658 head since 1976.

Sheep production is small but expanding, mostly in small farm flocks. The majority of production is transported out of the district for processing, the sheep population has tripled to 1,900 head since 1976. Predator problems are a constant source of difficulty for the industry and hinder large scale production. The hog industry has remained relatively minor, mostly as a subsidiary activity, the hog population has doubled to 530 since 1976. The majority of production is marketed to local processors in Prince George. Large scale hog production has attracted interest over the last few years.

The poultry industry has experienced considerable expansion since 1976 with the chicken population increasing 47 percent to 9,900 in 1981. The majority of the chicken population is concentrated in the low to middle sales brackets. Other poultry products, primarily ducks and geese have experienced some growth over the last few years but remain relatively minor, mostly in small farm flocks.

### Vegetables/Specialty Crops

Field vegetable receipts totalled $276,000 in 1981, potato production accounts for the majority of this total. Census data indicates that 7 holdings report vegetable production as a intensive activity and that there are 11 hectares under field vegetable production in the district. Hothouse vegetables were valued at $63,000, there were over 1,690 square meters of greenhouse space in 1981. Floriculture/nursery is also important, 1981 receipts totalled $17,000.

### Small Fruit

Small fruit receipts, mostly strawberries and other berries were valued at $11,000 in 1981, the district has 1.7 hectares under cultivation, almost all of which is concentrated in the upper sales classes.

### Field Crops

Field crops, mostly barley and oats totalled $58,400 in 1981 farm cash receipts. Over 95 percent of total crop area is devoted to fodder crops for the local cattle industry, wheat, canola, potatoes and other mixed grains account for remaining cropland. Honey is also an important cash crop with 1981 receipts totalling $27,000.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

| COMMODITY | FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000 | PERCENTAGE | PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | 8.82 | 0.08 | 0.10 |
| Oats | 16.56 | 0.14 | 0.57 |
| Barley | 32.94 | 0.28 | 0.40 |
| CWB Payments | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Canola | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Potatoes | 236.99 | 2.05 | 1.29 |
| Small Fruits | 11.34 | 0.10 | 0.03 |
| Field Vegetables | 39.32 | 0.34 | 0.13 |
| Floriculture/Nursery | 16.65 | 0.14 | 0.03 |
| Forest Prod. | 112.29 | 0.97 | 4.80 |
| Cattle & Calves | 4,914.53 | 42.51 | 4.00 |
| Income Ins. | 714.77 | 6.18 | |
| Hogs | 107.99 | 0.93 | 0.21 |
| Income Ins. | 0.20 | 0.00 | |
| Sheep | 74.95 | 0.65 | 2.84 |
| Income Ins. | 4.41 | 0.04 | |
| Poultry & Eggs | 135.18 | 1.17 | 0.10 |
| Income Ins. | 0.05 | 0.00 | |
| Dairy Products | 4,031.34 | 34.87 | 1.86 |
| C.D.C. Subsidy | 160.95 | 1.39 | |
| Honey | 27.21 | 0.24 | 0.53 |
| Tree Fruit | 4.93 | 0.04 | 0.01 |
| Income Ins. | 2.11 | 0.02 | |
| Hothouse | 62.56 | 0.54 | 0.22 |
| Income Ins. | 2.20 | 0.02 | |
| Other | 843.02 | 7.29 | 1.23 |
| TOTAL | 11,561.40 | | |

SOURCE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1983.

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: QUESNEL-IN HECTARES

| | $250-1599 | $1600-2499 | $2500-4999 | $5000-9999 | $10000-49999 | $50000 OR MORE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Farms | 82 | 33 | 63 | 61 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| Flaxseed | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Farms Reporting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Canola | 0.81 | - | - | - | - | - | 0.81 |
| Farms Reporting | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Tame Hay - Total | 856 | 510 | 950 | 1,692 | 5,776 | 3,117 | 12,900 |
| Farms Reporting | 52 | 24 | 46 | 55 | 103 | 32 | 312 |
| Alfalfa and Mixtures | 306 | 163 | 261 | 412 | 2,718 | 1,719 | 5,580 |
| Farms Reporting | 20 | 12 | 18 | 29 | 65 | 23 | 167 |
| Other Tame Hay | 550 | 346 | 668 | 1,280 | 3,057 | 1,398 | 7,320 |
| Farms Reporting | 37 | 16 | 33 | 41 | 59 | 16 | 202 |
| Oats for Fodder | 63 | 75 | 51 | 98 | 468 | 139 | 894 |
| Farms Reporting | 11 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 35 | 7 | 81 |
| Other Fodder Crops | 27 | - | - | 101 | 162 | 484 | 775 |
| Farms Reporting | 2 | - | - | 1 | 7 | 8 | 18 |

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22
QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

| | $250-1,599 | $1,600-2,499 | $2,500-4,999 | $5,000-9,999 | $10,000-49,999 | $50,000+ | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Farms | 82 | 33 | 63 | 61 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| Vegetables | 0.65 | 0.28 | 0.57 | - | 9.1 | - | 11 |
| Farms Reporting | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | 7 |
| Asparagus | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Farms Reporting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Beans | 0.04 | - | 0.04 | - | 0.81 | - | 0.89 |
| Farms Reporting | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| Beets | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.04 | - | 0.41 | - | 1.80 |
| Farms Reporting | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 5 |
| Broccoli | - | 0.04 | 0.04 | - | 0.81 | - | 1 |
| Farms Reporting | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| Cabbage | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.04 | - | 1.6 | - | 1.8 |
| Farms Reporting | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 5 |
| Carrots | 0.12 | 0.04 | 0.04 | - | 0.81 | - | 1 |
| Farms Reporting | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 6 |
| Cauliflower | 0.08 | 0.04 | 0.04 | - | 0.81 | - | 0.97 |
| Farms Reporting | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 5 |
| Cucumbers | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.04 | - | 0.41 | - | 0.53 |
| Farms Reporting | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 4 |
| Green Peas | - | - | 0.04 | - | 1.6 | - | 1.7 |
| Farms Reporting | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Lettuce | 0.04 | - | 0.04 | - | - | - | 0.08 |
| Farms Reporting | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Onions (Dry) | 0.04 | - | - | - | - | - | 0.04 |
| Farms Reporting | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Rutabagas | 0.08 | - | 0.04 | - | 1.2 | - | 1.3 |
| Farms Reporting | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| Sweet Corn | - | - | 0.04 | - | 0.61 | - | 0.65 |
| Farms Reporting | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Tomatoes | - | 0.04 | 0.04 | - | - | - | 0.08 |
| Farms Reporting | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Other Vegetables | 0.04 | - | 0.08 | - | - | - | 0.12 |
| Farms Reporting | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2 |

TABLE 23
QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

| | $250-1,599 | $1,600-2,499 | $2,500-4,999 | $5,000-9,999 | $10,000-49,999 | $50,000+ | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Farms | 82 | 33 | 63 | 61 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| Small Fruits | - | 0.04 | - | - | 1.6 | - | 1.7 |
| Farms Reporting | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Strawberries | - | - | - | - | 1.6 | - | 1.6 |
| Farms Reporting | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Grapes | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Farms Reporting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other Berries | - | 0.04 | - | - | - | - | 0.04 |
| Farms Reporting | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24

QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

| | 250-1,599 | $1,600-2,499 | $2,500-4,999 | $5,000-9,999 | $10,000-49,999 | $50,000+ | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Farms | 82 | 33 | 63 | 61 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| Tree Fruits | 0.97 | - | - | 0.08 | - | - | 1.1 |
| Farms Reporting | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| Apple | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Farms Reporting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| No. of Apple Trees | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pear | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Farms Reporting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Number of Pear Trees | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Plum and Prune | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Farms Reporting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Number of Trees | - | - | - | - | 0.08 | - | 0.08 |
| Cherry (Sweet) | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Farms Reporting | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 4 |
| No. of Cherry Trees | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0.97 |
| Cherry (Sour) | 0.97 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Farms Reporting | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Number of Trees | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Peach | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Farms reporting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| No. of Peach Trees | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Apricot | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Farms reporting | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| No. of Apricot Trees | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

| | $250-2,499 | $2,500-9,999 | $10,000-49,999 | $50,000+ | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Farms | 115 | 124 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| Nusery Products | - | n.a. | - | n.a. | n.a. |
| Farms Reporting | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 |
| Greenhouse Sq. Metres | n.a. | 470 | n.a. | n.a. | 1,690 |
| Farms Reporting | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 |

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

| | $250-2,499 | $2,500-9,999 | $10,000-49,999 | $50,000+ | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Farms | 115 | 124 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| Cattle-Total Number | 948 | 3,568 | 12,525 | 10,197 | 27,238 |
| Farms Reporting | 65 | 96 | 98 | 32 | 291 |
| Cows-Total Number | 333 | 1,327 | 5,417 | 3,946 | 11,023 |
| Farms Reporting | 55 | 82 | 91 | 30 | 258 |
| Dairy Cows-Number | 60 | 132 | 590 | 876 | 1,658 |
| Farms Reporting | 34 | 35 | 24 | 12 | 105 |
| Beef Cows-Number | 273 | 1,195 | 4,827 | 3,070 | 9,365 |
| Farms Reporting | 32 | 66 | 82 | 22 | 202 |
| Heifers-Total Number | 186 | 812 | 1,763 | 1,097 | 3,858 |
| Farms Reporting | 37 | 71 | 83 | 25 | 216 |
| Steers-Number | 141 | 259 | 545 | 1,581 | 2,526 |
| Farms Reporting | 27 | 38 | 50 | 16 | 131 |
| Bulls-Number | 32 | 108 | 312 | 237 | 689 |
| Farms Reporting | 27 | 66 | 87 | 27 | 207 |
| Calves-Number | 256 | 1,062 | 4,488 | 3,336 | 9,142 |
| Farms Reporting | 44 | 77 | 87 | 29 | 237 |
| Pigs-Total Number | 218 | 168 | n.a. | n.a. | 530 |
| Farms Reporting | 26 | 31 | 16 | 2 | 75 |
| Sheep-Total Number | 171 | 343 | 1,324 | 66 | 1,904 |
| Farms Reporting | 10 | 16 | 10 | 4 | 40 |
| Horses-Number | 263 | 442 | 411 | 122 | 1,238 |
| Farms Reporting | 58 | 70 | 66 | 22 | 216 |

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

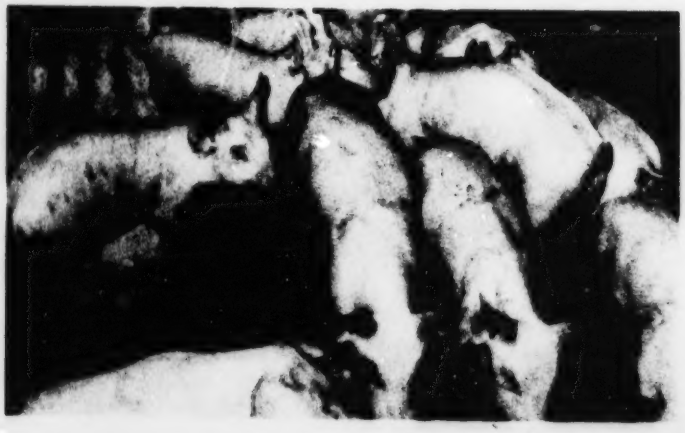


TABLE 27
QUESNEL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

| | 250-2,499 | $2,500-9,999 | $10,000-49,999 | $50,000+ | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Farms | 115 | 124 | 106 | 34 | 379 |
| Hens/Chickens Total No. | 3,211 | 3,402 | 2,850 | 403 | 9,866 |
| Farms Reporting | 71 | 70 | 47 | 13 | 201 |
| Turkeys-Number | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Farms Reporting | 18 | 18 | 7 | 4 | 47 |
| Geese-Number | 133 | 108 | n.a. | n.a. | 318 |
| Farms Reporting | 22 | 21 | 10 | 1 | 54 |
| Ducks-Number | 73 | 104 | n.a. | n.a. | 253 |
| Farms Reporting | 12 | 17 | 14 | 1 | 44 |

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

# APPENDIX

## TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

### Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

### Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

### Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of tress planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

## TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Class 1 | land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum. |
| Class 2 | land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate. |
| Class 3 | land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive. |
| Class 4 | land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations. |
| Class 5 | land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability. |
| Class 6 | land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land. |
| Class 7 | land has no agricultural capability whatsoever. |
| UNIMPROVED | These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either present land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture. |
| IMPROVED | These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained. |
| WATER SURFACES | This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland , that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N. |
| OTHER | This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas. |

Central Region

District Office:

208 - 350 Barlow Avenue
Quesnel, B.C.
V2J 2C1

Telephone: 992-5591

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